

The Chatty Loon

Upper South Long Lake Improvement Assn. Newsletter
P.O. Box 201, Brainerd, MN 56401

April, 2016
Edited by Dan Martonik



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President's Message



Greetings to the Upper South Long Lake community! With mild winter the ice went out early and we will all be out and about on the lake a bit early. Once again, we enter 2016 with an engaged community and a rich history

of lake stewardship. We also enter the year continuing our focus on preventing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). There is a lot of activity in the state legislative session around "Clean Water" and AIS. Please encourage your state representatives to continue supporting and funding these programs.

The USLLIA BOD continues to partner closely with the USLL LID BOD in planning and funding lake improvement activities.

Focus areas for 2016 include:

- Continuation of the Lake Inspection Program in partnership with Crow Wing County and the DNR. The state and county money will fund a significant number of inspection hours. We should all be involved as well. Keep your eyes open at the public landing and make sure that your guests are aware of Clean / Drain / Dry.
- Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment
- Zebra Mussel testing
- Eurasian Milfoil testing through the County

- Watershed partnerships
- Water testing of inlets
- Water quality testing
- Ongoing educational programs
- Social activities
- AIS signage
- A new loon nest

We will be sharing the detailed 2016 plan at the Annual Spring Meeting at Paradise Resort Event Center - 10AM, Saturday, May 21.

After the smashing success last year, we are planning another social event in conjunction with the annual LID meeting on July 16.

Remember to check out our Website which is updated quarterly. We would love to have more pictures and family stories posted on the site. www.usllia.org

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our boards and committees so please consider volunteering your talents and energy.

Thanks for your ongoing lake stewardship and support.

Ron Trosvig, BOD President

Most of you are aware that our dear friend and long-time board member Don Crust passed away last November. The Lake Association is planning a memorial for Don.

Replacing Don as Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair is Randy Peterson. Randy has big shoes to fill and we know he will do a great job.

As Mike Simons assumed his role as LID President, he left his position as the Association's Secretary open. We convinced past secretary John Pietruzewski that he was once again needed and he graciously accepted the position.

Association Board of Directors

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Dan Martonik, VP
Randy Peterson, Treasurer
John Pietruzewski, Secretary
Terry Lahti, Past Pres.
Jeff Gans

Chuck Yancey
Gerald Spande
Judy Brazeman
John Bettencourt
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From the LID President



It's officially spring. Soon the ice will be off the lake and the docks will be in. The LID board is gearing up for the season. PLM is contracted to treat the curly leaf (thanks for the help Dan). Boat inspections at our public landing are being planned and mailings to all property owners and water testing are among the activities we have planned.

The LID board is comprised of:

Mike Simons, President
Ruth Naber, Vice President
Gary Hopping, Treasurer
Mary Reetz, Secretary
Chris Psotka
Alan Steif
Steve Bardolph

Thanks to the efforts of the LID and Lake Association Boards, our LID was renewed for another five years. There will be no change in the assessment of \$75 a property owner. The other good news is Crow Wing County upgraded our lake to get 400 hours of paid boat inspection. This is up from 200 hours in past years.

The LID annual meeting will be Saturday, July 16th, 10am. The lake association picnic will follow; please plan to attend. Consider becoming a member of the board!

Mike Simons, LID President

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Water Report - Summer 2015 Summary



Secchi readings for 2015:

May	7.0'	August	6.5'
June	8.5'	Sept	5.0'
July	7.0'		

Previous results can be viewed in detail by going online to www.rmbel.info

The acreage treated in 2015 was 30.25.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Martonik, Water Committee Chair

Thoughts from a Geezer...

Going out is good.. Coming home is better.

You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you.

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything.

The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.

You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... "what?" . ???

Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

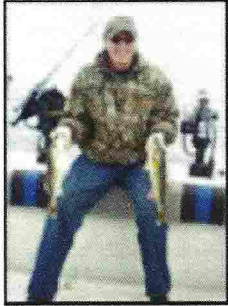
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Let's Go Fishin'



Fishing has been great on our lake. The early ice out this year will provide us for more opportunities to fish this spring.

Fishing is great fun for many of us. To catch a big fish, catching your first fish or having your child or grandchild catch fish is great fun and provides memories for many of us. To ensure that we can continue to have fish to catch we need to comply with the fishing rules for Upper South Long Lake.

The lake has no special DNR regulations. The following are the rules we are required to comply with:

- Walleye – 6 fish in possession/limit (not more than one over 20 inches in possession)
- Northern Pike – 3 fish in possession/limit (not more than one over 30 inches in possession)
- Largemouth Bass – 6 fish in possession/limit
- Crappie – 10 in possession/limit
- Sunfish – 20 in possession/limit

The daily limit and the amount one person can have in possession is the same for the lake.

Catching fish is fun and to provide great fishing for future years, please do not to exceed the limits established.

Dates to remember:

- Walleye, Northern Pike opener - May 14, 2016
- Largemouth Bass opener – May 28, 2016
- All other fish continuous

Take a kid fishing June 10-12, 2016 – anyone 16 and older can take anyone 15 and younger fishing and no license is required.

Practice catch and release.

Terry Lakti, Recreation Committee Chair

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Membership Committee



Our membership numbers are very good. At last count we have 173 members! With your membership dues and additional donations, we are able to fund many projects. The newest project is the new **loon nesting platform**. Our mid-summer get-together is also funded by your dues and we want everyone to take advantage of

this by coming to the party! A strong membership also allows us to help out our LID when they come across an opportunity that they are prohibited to fund. Thanks everyone.

This year we are going to try a new way of distributing the 2016 stickers. Instead of mailing them to everyone, they will be available for pick up at the annual meeting. If they are not picked up at that time, we will place them on your sign for you. This change will help us to save money on postage and paper. Please let us know if you would like us to have them mailed to you as we can also do that.

Additionally, a member has requested to change our "checks only" dues payment method and include an option of using a direct pay process. We are looking into that and we will let you know before the 2017 membership drive. We want to thank everyone for their commitment to our lake; let's have another great year!

Randy Peterson, Membership Committee Chair

Google "NEXTDOOR" for lake information

NEXTDOOR is our very own lake social media.

You can buy and sell, send out alerts, pass on news and announce events to our USLLIA neighbors. You have to join to participate. It's safe. It's useful. It's fun.

Thirty-one have already joined.

An area near Garrison already has over 100 members from their lake! Give it a try.

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Township decides to go with Garrison Fire Dept.

By Bill Kronstedt

Maple Grove
Township Supervisor

The big red fire trucks you are used to seeing today have come a long way over the years since the horse drawn wagon with barrels of water and a bunch of buckets. Way back then, if you had a house fire and lived away from town, you pretty much lost everything but the shirt on your back. Then came the horseless carriage with a tank of water and big hand pump hooked up to hoses. This was followed up by actual fire departments with several trucks and fire fighters.



Today, it takes large budgets to take care of a fire department, from special training and equipment to regulations governing how a department operates. Fire trucks can cost upwards of \$500,000 to over 1.5 million dollars.

House fires are devastating and most are preventable. A house fire can double in size every minute. So you can see what dangers there are because of this and the fact we live the distance we do from a fire department.

The Township of Maple Grove has in the past contracted with the Brainerd Fire Department for services. The costs of these services has gone up just about every year to \$21,197 this year. We average about 4 to 6 fires per year. After much discussion and research, the township decided to contract with the Garrison Fire Department for services starting in January, 2017. The cost will be about \$14,000. Their equipment is comparable to Brainerd (with the exception of a ladder truck). They have about the same amount of fire fighters and are about the same distance away. Response times were also considered and are comparable.

We hope this information will answer any questions you may have as to why we made this decision.

If you have further questions or suggestions, please join us at one of our monthly meetings.

Township meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month (with exceptions for elections) at 7:00 PM at the town hall down County Rd 8 at the intersection of County 108.

Lake Learning Our Freshwater Supply

Water is vital to every living creature on earth. Even though we are the blue planet, our fresh water supply on earth is fixed. The earth is a closed system, which means that the same water that existed on earth millions of years ago is still here. Water exists in many forms on earth, and is continually cycling through these different forms: oceans, glaciers, ground water, clouds, lakes and rivers to name a few.

What most people don't realize is how little of this water is actually usable freshwater. Of all the earth's water, 97% of it is ocean salt water and less than 3% of it is fresh water. Of this small amount of freshwater, 68.7% of it is frozen up in ice caps and glaciers, 30.1% of it is ground water and only 0.3% of it is surface water, which includes lakes and streams. The remaining 0.9% is water in other forms.

Water supply and water use can be a contentious subject. It most certainly will only get more contentious in the future. As the earth's population increases our water use increases, and the pristine water reserves get used. About 74% of the freshwater used in the United States in 2000 came from surface-water sources. The other 26% came from ground water. This is another great reason to protect lake and stream water quality.

We can all learn to use our freshwater resources more wisely, and that starts with our water use at home. Here are a few relatively easy ideas to implement at home to conserve water. You can find many more ideas at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>.

Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. This can save up to 1,000 gallons of water a month. Choose native shrubs and groundcovers, instead of turf, for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips. Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation. For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain. Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

To learn more about the earth's water supply and usage, you can visit: <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthhowmuch.html>.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

**A reminder that the Association's Spring Meeting
will be held May 21st, 10am at
Paradise Resort Bar and Grill Event Center.**

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Never too old for some fun



Linda Herzog gives her mom Eleanor Simons a jet-ski ride during Labor Day weekend of 2015.
Eleanor is 96 years old in this photo.

As a reminder...

All property owners and their guests should be aware of the DNR's Operator's Age Restrictions for both Motorboats and Jet-skis. The tables below were taken from the 2015/16 Minnesota Boating Guide.

Motorboat Operator Age Restrictions (Personal watercraft see page 36)	
Operator Age	Restrictions
less than 12 years of age	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 25 hp or less - no restriction. 2 more than 25 thru 75 hp - must have someone at least 21 on board within reach of the controls. 3 over 75 hp - cannot operate, even with adult on board.
12 - 17 years of age	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 25 hp or less - no restriction. 2 over 25 hp - must either have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a watercraft operator's permit, or • someone at least 21 on board within reach of the controls.

Personal Watercraft Operator Age Restrictions regardless of horsepower (other motorboats - see page 25)	
Operator Age	Restrictions
less than 13 years of age	Cannot operate, even with adult on board.
13 years of age	Must either have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • someone at least 21 on board, or • a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21.
14 - 17 years of age	Must either have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a watercraft operator's permit, or • someone at least 21 on board.

New Loon Nesting Platform



A new loon nesting platform is now in place at the north end of the lake! A BIG THANKS to Steve Bardolph and Al Steiff for making this happen. Steve and Al are the guys that have built, installed and maintained our two loon nests for the past 25 years. During that time the PVC and foam materials have deteriorated or have been damaged by muskrats, beavers, etc., and needed repairs every few years.

The new platform has a frame and pontoons made from 100% aluminum. This new design should have a much longer lifespan with fewer repairs needed. The design also includes a ramp so the birds can more easily access the nest.

If the loons have a successful breeding season using this new platform, we will purchase another one next year to replace the old platform at the south end of the lake.

The platform was manufactured by Nick Hillman of Hillman Welding. Nick has his business on the southwest side of the lake.

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LID water quality planning for 2016



Since the LID began testing the main four inlets to Upper South Long Lake back in 2012, I have attempted to summarize the findings each fall for inclusion in our required annual report to the county. These documents have also been posted yearly on the LID page of the USLLIA web site. For our five year LID renewal this past fall, we had a professional analysis prepared by Moriya Rufer from RMB Environmental Laboratories (the lab that was used for all the testing)

Briefly, there is good news. None of the inlets appear to be of concern - readings are well within or very near acceptable benchmark levels set by the MPCA. It was indicated that testing could be discontinued at all inlets for now. The board, however, has decided to decrease the frequency rather than discontinue. The Silver Bay inlet which has the run-off from the salvage yard upstream will be monitored twice and the other inlets only once for the year 2016.

Crow Wing county also prepared an extensive document this year on all the county's lakes. It appears that the report is to aid the county in prioritizing lake protection and restoration projects. Upper South Long is in the category of 25-60% watershed disturbance, classified as "Full Restoration: Realistic chance for full restoration of water quality and improve quality of fish communities. Disturbed land percentage should be reduced and BMP's (Best Management Practices) implemented."

Factors with the potential to impact our lake are agriculture, development, internal loading/algae blooms, inlet loading, and large watershed. Although that is a high number of impacts, we have a stable water quality trend which may be explained by the fact that we are a "flow-through" lake. Many county lakes with fewer impacts have a declining water quality trend.

Being aware of these potential impacts serves as a reminder that we must remain vigilant to maintain the health of our lake for the aquatic life as well as our recreational activities. Each of you should examine your property and ask if it could benefit from improved shoreline buffers and/or restoration, rain gardens, septic maintenance, etc. Be sure that you and your guests follow all boating regulations to keep aquatic invasives out of Upper South Long Lake.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Upper South Long Lake healthy. For more thorough information both of these documents can be found by going to usllia.org and clicking on "Lake Improvement District" on the left.

Ruth Naber, LID Vice-President / Water Quality Specialist

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Lake Learning Swimmer's Itch

It's that time of year again when swimmer's itch can be a problem. Today I will talk about what swimmers itch is, and how to avoid it.

Swimmer's itch is when you leave the lake after swimming and about an hour later some itchy red spots appear on your body. It can itch for a week or so and feel uncomfortable. Once you have had swimmer's itch, your skin may be more sensitive to it next time.

Swimmer's itch is caused by a tiny parasite that enters your skin from the water. That sounds repulsive, but the parasite doesn't do any harm to humans besides causing itchy red bumps. Most of the parasite species that cause swimmer's itch use aquatic snails as intermediate hosts for the larval parasite stages and bird hosts for the adult parasite. So how do humans fit into this picture? When the larval parasite leaves the snail, it then needs to enter a bird to survive. We get caught in the middle when the parasite enters our skin instead of the birds. Some common bird hosts include common mergansers, mallards, swans, and red-winged blackbirds.



Swimmer's itch is usually most prevalent in shallow downwind areas of lakes. In Detroit Lakes, it seems to be a problem in mid-June through mid-July. The presence of swimmer's itch doesn't really have anything to do with water quality or pollution on a lake. You just need the right kind of snails and the right kind of birds.

So how can you prevent getting swimmers itch? First, avoid feeding water birds by your lake home. Feeding ducks, geese and swans can propagate swimmer's itch in the area where birds are being fed. It also makes the birds dependent on humans for survival and makes them a nuisance.

Second, avoid swimming or standing for long periods in shallow water, and when you leave the water rinse off, towel off, and remove your wet swimsuit. Children are commonly affected by swimmer's itch because they play in shallow water and tend to be in the water more than adults. If you swim off a boat or raft in a deeper area of the lake, you will probably have less of a chance of getting swimmer's itch.

If you think you have swimmer's itch, you can go to the pharmacy and ask the pharmacist for a recommendation. Usually a topical cream can reduce swelling and itching.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

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